

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital camera to be mounted on a cradle having a first communication terminal through which an external apparatus capable of two-way communication is connected so that the digital camera performs two-way communication with the external apparatus, the digital camera comprising:

a second communication terminal which is connected to the first communication terminal when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle.

2. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, wherein when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the digital camera changes an operation mode thereof.

3. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, wherein when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus.

4. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle; and at least one of an image display device and a character display device, wherein if communication between the digital camera and the external apparatus is impossible when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the at least one of the image display device and the character display device displays an warning.

5. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a device which turns a camera power supply on and off according to an operation of a power supply switch provided at the cradle.

6. The digital camera according to claim 5, wherein when the camera power supply is turned on by the operation of the power supply switch provided at the cradle, the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus.

7. The digital camera according to claim 5, further comprising a second terminal which is connected to a first terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, a signal according to the operation of the power supply switch being outputted through the first terminal.

8. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
a power input terminal which is connected to a power output terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, DC power being outputted through the power output terminal; and

a charging device which charges a battery in the digital camera by the DC power inputted through the power input terminal when the camera power supply is turned off, the charging device prohibiting charging of the battery when the camera power supply is turned on.

9. The digital camera according to claim 8, wherein:
the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera;
the power output terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;
the power input terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and
the power input terminal of the digital camera is connected to the power output terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

10. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising an audio/video output terminal which is connected to an audio/video input terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle.

11. The digital camera according to claim 10, wherein:
 - the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera;
 - the audio/video input terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;
 - the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and
 - the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is connected to the audio/video input terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.
12. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera;
 - the first communication terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;
 - the second communication terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and
 - the second communication terminal of the digital camera is connected to the first communication terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.
13. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a power input terminal which is connected to a power output terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, DC power being outputted through the power output terminal; and
 - a device which turns on the camera power supply by operation of a power supply switch provided at the cradle on condition that the DC power is supplied through the power input terminal.
14. A cradle which connects a digital camera to an external apparatus capable of two-way communication, the cradle comprising:
 - a camera mounting section on which the digital camera is removably mounted; and
 - a first communication terminal which is connected to the external apparatus, the first communication terminal being connected to a second communication terminal provided at the digital camera when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section.

15. The cradle according to claim 14, further comprising a power supply switch which turns on and off a power supply of the digital camera.
16. The cradle according to claim 15, further comprising:
a second terminal through which a signal according to the operation of the power supply switch is outputted,
wherein when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section, the second terminal is connected to a first terminal provided at the digital camera to turn on and of the power supply of the digital camera.
17. The cradle according to claim 14, further comprising:
a display input terminal which is connected to a display output terminal provided at the digital camera when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section, a display signal being outputted through the display output terminal; and
a display device which displays at least one of a communication state between the digital camera and the external apparatus and an on/off state of the camera power supply according to the display signal inputted through the display input terminal.
18. The cradle according to claim 14, further comprising a power output terminal which is connected to a power input terminal provided at the digital camera when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section, DC power being inputted through the power input terminal.
19. The cradle according to claim 18, wherein:
the digital camera mounting section has a recess which guides the digital camera;
the power output terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;
the power input terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and
the power input terminal of the digital camera is connected to the power output terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

20. The cradle according to claim 14, further comprising an audio/video input terminal which is connected to an audio/video output terminal provided at the digital camera when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section.

21. The cradle according to claim 20, wherein:

the digital camera mounting section has a recess which guides the digital camera;

the audio/video input terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;

the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and

the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is connected to the audio/video input terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

22. The cradle according to claim 14, wherein:

the digital camera mounting section has a recess which guides the digital camera;

the first communication terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess;

the second communication terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and

the second communication terminal of the digital camera is connected to the first communication terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

23. A camera system, comprising:

a digital camera comprising a second communication terminal through which two-way communication with an external apparatus is performed; and

a cradle comprising:

a camera mounting section on which the digital camera is removably mounted; and

a first communication terminal which is connected to the external apparatus,

wherein the first communication terminal and the second communication terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section.

24. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein:
the digital camera further comprises a detection device which detects an electronic connection between the digital camera and the cradle; and
the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus when the detection device detects that the first communication terminal and the second communication terminal are connected to each other.

25. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein
the digital camera further comprises:
a detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle; and
at least one of an image display device and a character display device,
wherein if communication between the digital camera and the external apparatus is impossible when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the at least one of the image display device and the character display device displays an warning.

26. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein
the cradle further comprises a power supply switch; and
the digital camera further comprises a device which turns a camera power supply on and off according to an operation of the power supply switch of the cradle.

27. The camera system according to claim 26, wherein when the camera power supply is turned on by the operation of the power supply switch provided at the cradle, the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus.

28. The camera system according to claim 26, wherein:
the cradle further comprises a first terminal through which a signal according to the operation of the power supply switch is outputted;
the digital camera further comprises a second terminal which is connected to the first

terminal; and

the first terminal and the second terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section.

29. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein:

the digital camera further comprises a power input terminal through which DC power is inputted;

the cradle further comprises a power output terminal through which the DC power is outputted; and

the power input terminal and the power output terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section.

30. The camera system according to claim 29, wherein:

the power input terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera;

the digital camera mounting section of the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera;

the power output terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess; and

the power input terminal of the digital camera and the power output terminal of the cradle are connected to each other in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

31. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein:

the digital camera further comprises an audio/video output terminal;

the cradle further comprises an audio/video input terminal; and

the audio/video output terminal and the audio/video input terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section.

32. The camera system according to claim 31, wherein:

the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera;

the digital camera mounting section of the cradle has a recess which guides the digital

camera;

the audio/video input terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess; and
the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera and the audio/video input terminal of the cradle are connected to each other in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.

33. The camera system according to claim 23, wherein:

the second communication terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera;

the digital camera mounting section of the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera;

the audio/video input terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess; and
the second communication terminal of the digital camera and the first communication terminal of the cradle are connected to each other in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle.